Chinese claim of Arunachal Pradesh

†247. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has recently reasserted its claim on Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) the details thereof and when the claim was asserted last; and

(c) the details of concrete action taken to repudiate this claim and when it was taken?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) China illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The Chinese side raised the matter again after Prime Minister's visit to Arunachal Pradesh in January 2008. The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India has been reiterated by Government to the Chinese side.

Repatriation from Bangladesh

248. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the procedural delay on the part of Indian High Commission in Dhaka and the Minister of External Affairs, taking more than fifteen months to coordinate repatriation of an unfortunate sixteen year old Indian girl who, five years ago, innocently crossed Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) if so, the cost of air ticket for Dhaka-Delhi sector being denied initially and only through Court's intervention the cost was reimbursed after her landing in India; and

(c) the reasons for adopting such an attitude in a humanitarian case?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) It is presumed that the reference is to Ms. Salma who was repatriated from Bangladesh to India in December 2007. The High Commission of India in Dhaka had rendered all possible assistance in this case. The Bangladesh Government granted consular access in September 2007, after which the Mission assisted in her repatriation in December 2007, after Ms. Salma recovered from an illness, through an air ticket arranged by an NGO.

Condition of Indian workers in Malaysia

249. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Home Affairs of Malaysian Government has recently visited India and held discussion with various leaders on the condition of Indian workers there;

(b) if so, the details of disucussions held and the outcome thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) whether to safeguard the interest of Indian workers there and those from Malaysia in India, Government has urged the Malaysian Government to speed up signing of a MoU between both the countries; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Malaysian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Steps are being taken for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Malaysia and India, which will lay down the framework for bilateral cooperation to facilitate employment, protection and welfare of workers. The negotiations have been completed. The two Governments are completing the necessary formalities for singing the MoU at the earliest.

Visit of Foreign Minister of Turkey

250. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Turkey has recently visited India and held discussion on several issues;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Foreign Minister of Turkey has offered an alternative to Iranian Gas pipeline; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further reaction of Government on such offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) The two sides held discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. An Agreement for abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic passport between the two countries was signed;

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

PM's visit to China

251. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had paid a visit to China recently and held discussions with his counterpart on several issues;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the border dispute issue was discussed with the Chinese Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?